

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed August 1, 2006. Claims 1-22 were pending in the present application. Claims 4-9 and 11-16 are allowable. This Amendment amends claims 4, 5, 7, 11, 12, 14, 17, 19, and 21; cancels claims 1-3 and 10; and adds new claims 23-24, leaving pending in the application claims 4-9 and 11-24. Reconsideration of the rejected claims and consideration of the newly presented claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Claims

Claims 4-9 and 11-16 are objected to as being dependent upon as rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 4 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, such that these claims are in condition for allowance. The other claims indicated to be allowable depend from claims 4 or 11, such that these claims are also in condition for allowance. Claims 19 and 21 have been amended to also recite these allowable limitations, such that these claims and the claims that depend therefrom, and thus all remaining pending claims, should be in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

II. Objection to the Claims

Claims 5, 7, 12, and 14 are objected to as containing various informalities. These claims have been amended and do not contain any of the informalities to which the Examiner objected. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

III. Objection to the Drawings

The drawings are objected to for Figure 1 lacking reference characters deemed necessary for clarity. Although Applicants do not agree with the need for correction, a corrected drawing sheet in compliance with 37 CFR §1.121(d) is attached hereto, including textual labels for the

requested reference characters (except reference 10 to the overall system, as is standard practice), in order to expedite issuance of the allowable claims. The changes to the Figure are not intended to alter the scope of the invention or be interpreted as a limitation on the claimed invention, are supported by the specification, and do not add new matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request acceptance of the replacement sheet and withdrawal of the objection.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1, 3, 10, 19, and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Besaw* (US 5,276,789) in view of *Davidson* ("Drawing graphs nicely using simulated annealing," 1996). Further, claims 2, 17, 18, 20, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over *Besaw* in view of *Davidson* and further in view of *Fowler* ("UML distilled: a brief guide to the standard object modeling language," 2000). Although Applicants respectfully submit that these references do not teach or suggest each element of these claims, the claims have been amended to recite subject matter that is allowable over these references in order to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter, as discussed above. The remaining claims, and newly added claims, are thus allowable over these references. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the rejection with respect to these claims be withdrawn.

V. Amendment of the Claims

Unless otherwise specified, amendments to the claims are made for purposes of clarity, and are not intended to alter the scope of the claims or limit any equivalents thereof. The amendments are supported by the specification and do not add new matter.

VI. Newly Presented Claims

Claims 23-24 have been added to allow limitations that previously depended from canceled claim 1 to depend from claim 4, which has been re-written in independent form to include the limitations of canceled claim 1. These claims thus are supported by the specification and do not add new matter. Applicants therefore respectfully request consideration and allowance of newly presented claims 23-24.

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Amdt. dated November 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action of August 1, 2006

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments
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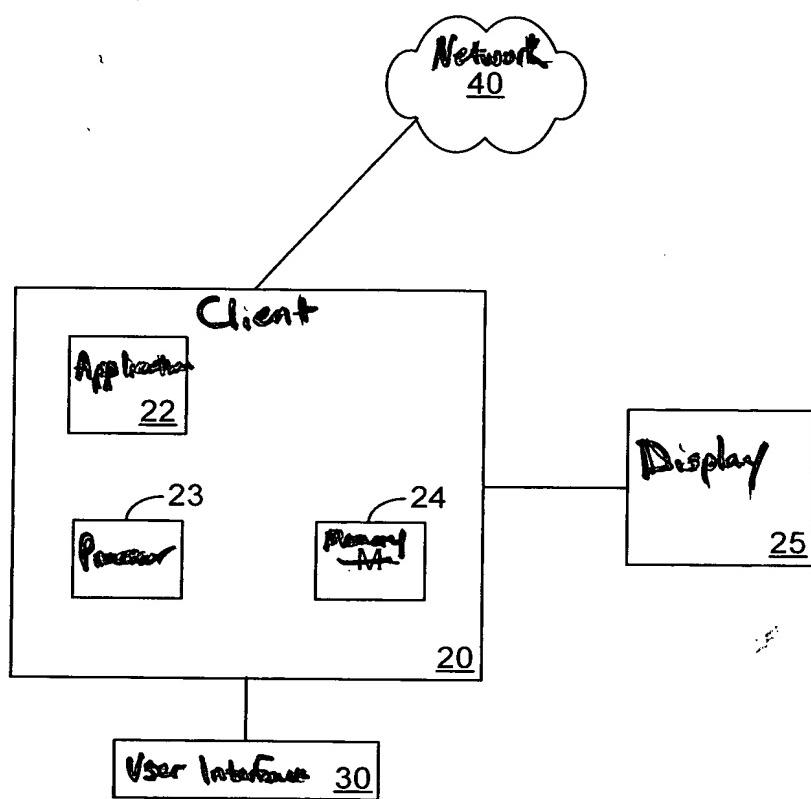


FIG. 1